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# Truths Taught On Mars Hill

Wyatt Sawyer

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TRUTHS TAUGHT ON MARS HILL

(1.)

INT. Acts 9:15-16\* Paul because world's 3rd greatest Optimist. Col. 1:23. God first, John 3:16. Jesus 2nd, John 10:10. Men care. Men turn!!!

I. SETTING OF THIS LESSON.

(45-65 A. D.)

- A. Chs. 13-28 of Acts covers 20 yrs. NT history
- B. Central figure: Paul, who led church from a small Jewish-sect to world-wide brotherhood!
- C. Mission accomplished in 4 missionary journey.
1. First: To Asia-minor and back. 7 stops & retrace with 3 new stops. STONED-Lystra.
  - 2nd: Asia-minor, Macedonia and Achaia (Greece) 7 stops in Asia. 8 in Europe. 4-return.
- D. Athens was his 13th stop on 2nd Journey.
1. 8th: Philippi-beaten & imprisoned.
  2. 11th: Thessalonica-riot ensued. Left night
  3. 12th: Berea-good reception, Jews riot-left
  4. Paul left ALONE at Athens awaiting the coming of Silas and Timothy.

II. PAUL IN ATHENS.

- v.16 A. SPIRIT STIRRED: submerged in idolatry.  
Pre-tonius: "it is easier to find a god than a man in Athens." XENOPHON: "Athens is one great altar!"
1. WHY STIRRED? Because credit was not going where credit is due. God of Heaven!!!
- v. 17 B. REASONED IN THE SYNAGOGUE. and MARKETPLACE.  
 Devout people the best to start with even if were wrong! Synagogue!
1. Marketplace famous like Roman-forum, or Jewish Gates: place of much discussion. Used by Socrates, Aristotle, Plato, Zeno, Epicurus, Demosthenes, Lucian, Seneca, Pretonius and Thu-ci"-di"-dies. Ect.
- C. ENCOUNTERED EPICUREANS AND STOICS.
1. Epicureans: end of life is pleasure, SO, live for today--no tomorrow!
  2. Stoics: Zeno's doctrine: fate governs all and there is no good in pleasure and no bad in pain. No soul, no immortality.

D. QUESTION: "What shall this babbler say???"

"Seed-picker" What little seed he found???

Seed - Church - H.S. - Church - Soul - Salvation

28-30

7. V. 28-30a. <sup>you</sup> Should now forget your ignorance of the past. God overlooks. You <sup>were</sup> left to your own terrible-Rom. 1:28.

30-31

8. REPENTANCE is demanded of all now. V. 30b-31. WHY??? Idol-worship offends the one, wise, true and all-powerful God.

9. JUDGMENT to come! Ordained His Son to be the Judge. John 5:22.

V.31

10. ASSURANCE is found in His RESURRECTION from the dead. V. 31.

HERE PAUL IS INTERRUPTED: Did not get to finish telling of Salvation of soul, forgiveness of sins or of eternal life! B-R-C-B.

10:10  
11:20

#### IV. RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE. V. 32-34.

A. Epicureans mocked. NO TOMORROW. JUST TODAY

B. Stoics: Later! Believed all were absorbed back into the Cosmos. Pantheism!!!

C. CERTAIN men clave unto him. Believed!!!

D. DIONYSUS, one of the judges believed.

E. DAMARIS, and OTHERS believed. SUCCESS!!!!

A CHURCH!!!!

F. TRADITION: H. Leo Boles and J. L. Hurlbut:

"Athens became a Christian city 400 yrs. later, was one of the staunchest haters of idolatry and the Parthenon was used for Christian worship."

Seed - picker sowed powerful seed!

INV:

IF PAUL CAME THROUGH OUR CITY TODAY, WHAT WOULD HE SEE/AND SAY?

10:15

1. I beheld your "devotions"! THINGS being put ahead of Christ, Church, your Soul!

11:25

Math. 22:37, 41-43.  
Beheld your yards and gardens. Being worked during worship hour on Lord's day.

Your devotion to your Cars. Wash and polis but no time for BS, Church worship, sou

My fly paper. "MY POSSESSION!" PAPER THEN "MY FLY

Your devotion to your HOUSES, but no time for the home of the soul. (over) #4



V.19 E. Paul arrested! "Took him" V. 19.

1. Areopagus or Mars Hill. Hill of Mars. Like U. S. Supreme Court. Jewish Sanhed. An open-air court. Highest in the land. (Socrates tried & condemned here.) <sup>399 B.C. 280 to 320</sup>

V.20 F. Charge: V. 19-20. This NEW teaching. Certain strange teachings. ILLEGAL!!!!!! Case being heard by 30 Justices & crowd.

III. GREAT TRUTHS TAUGHT BY PAUL ON MARS HILL.

V.22 A. TOO RELIGIOUS! TOO SUPERSTITIOUS!

Greatly addicted to rel. practices. True meaning: Too demon-fearing. *that building!*

1. Demons were dead men, deified, and came back to curse, haunt, hinder & kill.
2. Little gods were to appease them.

PAUL: All of this is unnecessary.....

V.23 B. V. 23. I KNOW YOUR UNKNOWN GOD!!!!

(note: No new doctrine, thus no penalty.)

*what say? to someone who does not know God??*

1. V. 24. CREATOR. "God that made worlds.)

All-powerful. Too big for temples.

POINTED TO: Acropolis and many temples there:

Temple to Athena, goddess of wisdom.

The-seum: entrance temple to Parthenon.

ALSO: temples to THE SEION, ZEUS, NIKE, ROMA, POND'ROSUS AND PRO'PYLA EA, ETC.

2. V. 25. Not served by man's hands as Grecian gods, who were given fruits and favorite dishes at their images *eat eat meat by animals!*

3. HE GIVES. V. 25. He gives ALL! Apease Him and have appeased all. James 1:17.

4. ONE BLOOD. V. 26. Common origin, so no surprise if He wants a world-brotherhood *I Cor 12:13.*

5. DETERMINED the seasons: So forget all your little images and seek to please the ONE and ONLY true God-Power!!! He sends seasons, climate and weather.

6. Determined our boundaries. Sons of Noah. So He is the one to please and He is never far from any. (Not like Greek gods *V.27.*)

*20 off + leave man to flourish.*

SS 4-16-72 2M  
MT 4-27-75 2B 2R

Your devotion to your BODIES and PLEASURE,  
SPORTS AND CONTESTS---good in place---  
but not to detriment of the SOUL!

Your worship at your SHRINE OF PRIDE and  
TEMPLE OF MAMMON. Work to the neglect  
of God's work. Losing soul.

REMIND YOU. 17:30-31. Time to repent.

Time to obey.

Time to prepare to  
meet thy God!

MT 4-27-75 2B 2R